

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

into her mind save that whoso did, or spoke thus to her, was impelled by charity or by zeal for the salvation of her soul. And for this she thanked the inestimable goodness of God, who with this light had saved her, through His grace, from the danger of judging her neighbour.

" Lastly, she said that she had set very great hope and confidence in the Divine Providence ; and to this she invited and exhorted us all. She told us that she had found and tasted its wondrous greatness from her childhood. And she added : 'You, too, have experienced and seen it so great and so bountiful that, if our hearts had been harder than stone, our hardness and coldness must needs have been dissolved. Be enamoured, then, children, of this sweet Providence, for it will never fail whoso hopeth in it, and especially you.'

" Exhorting us and humbly inciting us to these and many other things, she besought us for what our Saviour left as testament to His holy disciples, that we should love one another. And, speaking with enkindled speech, she often said : * Love one another, my children, love one another, for by this shall you show that you have had me and own me for mother, and I shall hold you to be my most beloved children ; for, by being virtuous, you will be my glory and my crown. And I will pray the Divine Goodness to pour out upon you all the abundance of gifts and graces which it has pleased Him to infuse into my soul.'

"Also, she laid this command upon us all: ¹ My children, do not let your desires slacken, touching the reformation and good state of Holy Church. But, ever more enkindled, offer tears with humble and continual prayer in the sight of God for this sweet Spouse, and for the vicar of Christ, Pope Urban VI *; saying of herself: ^e Long while have I borne this desire; but especially, now more than seven years ago, it seemed that God put this exercise and enflamed desire into my soul. And, from then until now, no time has ever passed without my offering it up before the Divine Goodness, with mournful and painful and sweet desires; and it has pleased His goodness for this to lay upon this weak body and make it bear many diverse and varied